



# CHRIS KAPENGA

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 33RD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Assembly Bill 610 Testimony  
Assembly Committee on Transportation  
February 27, 2012

Chairman Petrowski and Members of the Committee,

Good morning. I would first like to thank you for bringing Assembly Bill 610 in front of your committee for a public hearing.

This bill was drafted at the request of the Village of Mukwonago Police Department in response to a situation that Mukwonago's very popular Elegant Farmer has been struggling with.

The Elegant Farmer began as a family dairy farm back in 1947 and has since grown in size and popularity by selling locally grown fresh and frozen fruits, vegetables, pies and other baked goods. They are open year round, but see their highest volume of patrons in the fall. While this is great for the business, it has caused problems as visitors must park and walk across busy County Road ES.

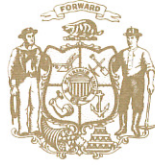
In response, the speed limit on the road has been reduced and a cross-walk has been added. Additionally, for the past two years, the Village of Mukwonago trained employees of the Elegant Farmer as private traffic control attendants in order to provide further protection for the high volume of visitors crossing ES.

Unfortunately, under a law implemented in 1932, civilian crossing guards are only allowed in the vicinity of a school. Thus, the Elegant Farmer was forced to discontinue their use of private traffic controllers.

AB 610 solves the problem by allowing local governments to approve ordinances authorizing the use of trained civilian traffic control attendants to regulate traffic. This bill also specifically requires that:

1. Any appointment of traffic control attendants specifies dates, times, and locations the appointment is valid.
2. The appointed traffic control attendants are trained.
3. The appointed traffic attendants must wear insignia or a uniform that designates that he or she is a traffic control attendant, and the attendant must be equipped with the necessary signals and/or signs.

We have recently become aware that the Village of Waterford would also benefit from the passage of this piece of legislation. Waterford has asked the State Patrol for assistance with a traffic control issue on a state highway. Unfortunately, the State Patrol does not have the resources to adequately fulfill Waterford's request. This bill will be a solution to their predicament, just as it will provide the Village of Mukwonago with the means to protect pedestrian and motorist safety.



# Mary Lazich

Wisconsin State Senator

Senate District 28

**Assembly Committee on Transportation**

**Senate Bill 458 Testimony (AB 610)**

**February 28, 2012**

SB 458 was drafted at the request of Lt. Ken Pileggi with the Village of Mukwonago Police Department. The bill allows local governments to approve ordinances authorizing the use of trained civilian traffic control attendants to regulate traffic.

Every fall Mukwonago's Elegant Farmer attracts thousands of patrons parking and walking across busy County Road ES. In response, the speed limit has been reduced and a crosswalk established. However, given the high volume of pedestrian traffic, more is necessary to ensure safety on this busy road.

In response, for two years the Village of Mukwonago trained employees of the Elegant Farmer about traffic control. The Elegant Farmer, at their own expense, regulated traffic with private traffic control attendants. Unfortunately, traffic control attendants are not allowed under a law approved during 1932. Under current law, Chapter 349 allows only for civilian crossing guards in the vicinity of a school, not on other roads.

Accordingly, SB 458 allows local municipalities and counties to approve ordinances that allow for civilian traffic control attendants to regulate traffic as long as:

- 1) Any appointment of traffic control attendants must specify dates, times, and locations the appointment is valid.
- 2) The appointed traffic control attendants must be trained.
- 3) The appointed traffic attendants must wear insignia or a uniform that designates they are a traffic control attendant, and they must be equipped with necessary signals and/or signs.

With the loss of the crossing guards at the Elegant Farmer, pedestrian and motorist safety suffered. While this legislation was originally drafted to assist the Village of Mukwonago, any Wisconsin municipality can take advantage of the increased motorist and pedestrian safety provided by it.

Recently I learned the Village of Waterford has a need for this legislation. Waterford has a traffic control issue on a state highway. They asked assistance of State Patrol. State Patrol explained they do not have the resources to assist. To meet the needs of Waterford, SB 458 has an amendment to allow for traffic control attendants to work at times other than special events.

Thank you for your attention to SB 458.

